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SUBJ: COMPLAINT ABOUT RFE/RL BROADCASTING POLICY

REF: WARSAW 4380

BEGIN SUMMARY: ON JUNE 21, THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MOVEMENT FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND THE CITIZEN GAVE AN EMBASSY

OFFICER A MEMORANDUM ADDRESSED TO THE AMBASSADOR PROTESTING ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE MOVEMENT IN THE BROADCASTING

POLICY OF RFE/RL. THEY ASKED FOR MORE BALANCED NEWS PRESENTATION IN LINE WITH THE DIRECTIVES SET DOWN BY PRESIDENT CARTER AT THE END OF

1976. END SUMMARY.

2. STEFAN KACZOROWSKI, LESZEK MOCZULSKI, AND WOJCIECH ZIEMBINSKI,

MEMBERS OF THE MOVEMENT FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND THE CITIZEN, CALLED AT THE EMBASSY JUNE 21 WITH A MEMORANDUM ADDRESSED

TO THE AMBASSADOR, ASKING FOR AID IN GAINING RECOGNITION IN RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY BROADCASTS.

3. IN THEIR ORAL PRESENTATION TO THE EMBASSY OFFICER, THEY EXPRESSED

THE HIGHEST RESPECT FOR RFE/RL, WHICH
THEY SAID WAS THE ONLY SOURCE POLES TURNED TO WHEN THEY WANTED

INFORMATION IN ISSUES OF PRESSING IMPORTANCE FOR POLAND. MOREOVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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THEIR PRINCIPAL PURPOSE IN ASKING FOR RECOGNITION WAS TO INSURE THAT THE STATION REMAINED OBJECTIVE. THEY ALSO SAID THAT, IF RFE/RL

PAYS SELECTIVE ATTENTION TO INTERNAL EVENTS IN POLAND, IT COMMITS THE SAME ERROR AS THE POLISH MEDIA. THEY ESTIMATED THAT RFE/RL

ATTRACTS BETWEEN ONE AND SEVEN MILLION SERIOUS LISTENERS DAILY, WHO NOTICE DETAILS SUCH AS THE ABSENCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE MOVEMENT. THE REPRESENTATIVES ASSURED THE EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THEY

BASE THEIR ACTIVITIES ON THE SAME STRICT ADHERENCE TO POLISH LAW AS THE WORKERS DEFENSE COMMITTEE (WDC). THEY SAID THAT NONE

OF THEIR STATEMENTS COULD BE INTERPRETED AS VIOLATING THE GUIDELINES OF RFE.

4. THE MEMORANDUM LISTS SEVEN INSTANCES IN WHICH RFE/RL IS SAID TO

HAVE FAILED TO RECOGNIZE ACTIVITIES BY THE MOVEMENT:

A) IT WITHHELD PUBLICATION IN FULL OF THE MOVEMENT'S APPEAL,

ISSUED MARCH 25;

B) IT HAS FAILED TO INFORM ITS LISTENERS ABOUT: THE MOVEMENT'S DECLARATION OF APRIL 18; THE DEMONSTRATION BY MEMBERS OF THE MOVEMENT

ON MAY 1 AT THE SEJM ON BEHALF OF FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND BELIEF; THE MOVEMENT'S DECLARATION OF MAY 9 ABOUT THE DEATH OF

STANISLAW PYJAS; THE DECLARATION OF MAY 18 PROTESTING THE ARRESTS OF WDC MEMBERS; THE MESSAGE OF A GROUP OF MOVEMENT AND WDC

ACTIVISTS OF MAY 18 ABOUT A SEJM INTERPELLATION DIRECTED AT THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND THE MOVEMENT'S DECLARATION

OF JUNE 5 DEMANDING PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, RATIFIED ON MARCH 3, IN THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

(DZIENNIK USTAW).

C) IT ENTIRELY PASSED OVER THE DECLARATION ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH RELEASED BY THE MOVEMENT ON MAY 3, 1977;

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D) IT HAS REFRAINED FROM REPORTING ON THE OPENING OF THE MOVEMENT'S CONSULTATIVE-INFORMATION POINTS IN WARSAW AND LODZ;

E) IT HAS REFRAINED FROM MAKING KNOWN THE CHARACTER AND THE CONTENT

OF ISSUES TO DATE OF THE MOVEMENT'S PUBLICATION "OPINIA," AND,

F) IT HAS FAILED TO MENTION ARTICLES ABOUT THE MOVEMENT'S ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN THE WESTERN PRESS.

5. MOREOVER, THE MEMORANDUM NOTES THAT ALL OF THE ABOVE STATEMENTS AND EVENTS WERE KNOWN TO WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS IN WARSAW,

AND ARTICLES ABOUT THEM HAVE APPEARED IN WESTERN MASS MEDIA, BUT NOT IN THE BROADCASTS OF RFE/RL. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE

MEMORANDUM IS FULL OF PRAISE FOR RFE/RL'S COVERAGE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WDC.

6. COMMENT: WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED OTHER COMPLAINTS FROM

NON-ESTABLISHMENT INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS ABOUT A LACK OF BALANCE IN RFE/RL'S REPORTING OF DISSIDENCE IN POLAND. THIS MOST RECENT

COMPLAINT DOES NOT SUGGEST THAT RFE/RL REDUCE ITS COVERAGE OF THE WDC. RATHER, IT PLEADS FOR EQUAL TIME AND EVEN-HANDED COVERAGE OF

EVENTS, AS CALLED FOR IN RFE/RL'S GUIDELINES.

7. IN DISCUSSING WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN

THE WDC AND THE MOVEMENT, KONRAD SIENIEWICZ, AN OFFICIAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION, BASED IN ROME,

RECENTLY MADE THE POINT THAT, WHILE IT ALSO INCLUDES SOME NON-MARXISTS, MOST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE WDC ARE AVOWEDLY MARXISTS;

A NUMBER OF THEM WERE ARDENT SUPPORTERS OF STALINISM. MEMBERS OF THE MOVEMENT, SIENIEWICZ SAID, ARE PREDOMINANTLY NON-MARXIST, IF NOT ANTI-MARXIST, IN THEIR IDEOLOGICAL COMMITMENT. END COMMENT

8. ACTION RECOMMENDED: WE HAVE NO WAY OF JUDGING THE ACCURACY,

OR LACK OF ACCURACY, OF THE MOVEMENT'S COMPLAINT. ON THE FACE OF IT, WE AGREE THAT IT IS UNWISE FOR RFE'S POLISH SERVICE TO APPEAR TO

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FAVOR ONE GROUP OF OPPOSITIONISTS. IF IT IS GOING TO DO SO,
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IT SEEMS PARTICULARLY INADVISABLE TO PICK A PREDOMINANTLY MARXIST-

GROUP TO FAVOR. IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE THAT RFE/RL AVOID
GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT IT IS PREJUDGING THE DESIRABILITY

OF THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF CHANGE, BEYOND INDICATING A GENERAL
PREFERENCE FOR A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT THAT PERMITS THE POLISH
PEOPLE TO MAKE SUCH DETERMINATIONS FOR ITSELSM IF, FOLLOWING

INVESTIGATION, THE DEPARTMENT CONCLUDES THAT THE MOVEMENT'S
COMPLAINT IS JUSTIFIED, IT MAY WISH TO BRING IT TO THE BIB'S

ATTENTION. IF IT DOES THIS, I SHOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S NOT
TELLING BIB THAT THE COMPLAINT WAS TRANSMITTED BY THE EMBASSY; WE

CAN BE SURE THAT THAT INFORMATION WOULD RAPIDLY REACH THE WARSAW
AUTHORITIES, IF IT WERE IMPARTED TO OFFICIALS OF RFE/RL AND THE

POLISH SERVICE.

9. AS REPORTED IN REF, WE ARE POUCHING A COPY OF THE
MEMORANDUM AND OF THE SECOND ISSUE OF "OPINIA" TO THE DEPARTMENT.

DAVIES

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